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a seal tube disposed inwardly of the proximal end of the hollow fibers and forming a seal with the distal end of the outer tube and the proximal ends of the hollow fibers.

**REMARKS**

The Office Action dated December 28, 2000 has been carefully considered. In response to the Office Action, Applicants have amended the application. Applicants request that the Examiner consider the following remarks, and then pass the application to allowance.

**Canceled Claims:**

Claims 1, 2, 5, 9, and 11-64 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

**Pending Claims:**

Claims 3, 4, 6-8 and 10 are now pending.

**Subject Matter Indicated Allowed or Allowable:**

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowability of Claims 3, 4, 6-8 and 10, subject to their re-writing in independent form. These claims have been so re-written and are now in condition for allowance.

**Conclusion:**

In view of the preceding discussion, Applicants respectfully urge that the claims of the present application define patentable subject matter and should be passed to allowance. Such allowance is respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone call would help advance prosecution of the present invention, the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned attorney, Mr. Khaled Shami, at (650) 622-2332.

Respectfully submitted,

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